

Today's
Advertisements.

BANK HOLIDAYS.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 6 of 1872 the Undermentioned Banks will be CLOSED for the Transactions of Public Business on FRIDAY, the 10th April (Good Friday) and on MONDAY, the 15th April (Easter Monday).

For the CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

For the NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

For the MERCHANTS BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

For the BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS LIMITED.

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Advertisements.

AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM SHANGHAI AND KOBE.

THE Steamship

"GISELA," having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, whence delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all claims must be sent in to the Underwriters before Noon on the 16th instant, or they will not be recognised.

No Five Insurance has been effected, and any Goods remaining in the Godowns after the 16th instant, will be subject to rent.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by SANDER & Co., Agents.

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Englishmen it is a matter of very little importance that she should be discredited and put to shame. Perhaps it would suit our purpose that the eyes of her people should at length be opened to their shortcomings as a government and as a nation, but it is clear that it is of very great importance to England to know, as the result of this war, China is to lose territory and to whom she is to surrender it. We do not ourselves want any portion of her soil; except, perhaps, a very little bit (a few strategic points) on the opposite mainland to round off the defences of this colony. We have no desire to make conquests and to add to the responsibilities of the Empire. That grows fast enough as it is, in spite of every effort to keep down the expansion. We want free trade, free channels for our commerce; new markets for our manufactures; open harbours for our ships, perfect safety and a welcome everywhere for our traders. If we can have these things, it matters little who owns the land or what flags fly over the forts and ships. If we cannot have these things, if the result of any changes may be to shut out our trade from any country, to exclude our manufactures, or to tax them so heavily as to preclude competition, then it behooves us to have a word to say before any such changes are carried out, and to be prepared to say that word and to be able to back that word by deeds when the proper time comes for speaking and acting. To be prepared to speak and act wisely and with decision the questions involved must be carefully thought out and the cause and effect examined in all their bearings before hand.

Let us now see what the elements of the question are. The natives interested are, first the Chinese and Japanese, who are at war; secondly, the Koreans over whom these parties have quarrelled, and for whose benefit, it is alleged, a vast amount of blood has been shed and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been wasted, and who, in all likelihood will be the prize of the conqueror, unless a greater power than either of the belligerents steps in to despoil the spoiler; Russia and France in the front rank, with the United States and Germany a little further removed from the heat and turmoil of the fray. All other nations may be safely left out of the reckoning for the time being. China is utterly crushed and beaten without a hope of recovering herself in the present war, whatever she may be able to do in the far distant future. Her utter lack of organisation for defensive purposes is beyond doubt and the very solidity and strength of that organisation for certain purposes and within certain limits, her intense conservatism, renders any speedy change of front or of policy impossible. Is she capable of reorganisation or improvement except by the process of breaking up, putting into the melting pot, and entirely recasting in a new mould? It would almost appear as if the answer must be in the negative. She is just now like the Roman Empire in the last days of its waning power and vain glory—incapable of internal reform, or reconstruction, altogether too unwieldy, too effete for resistance or bold defence, surrounded and attacked on all sides by what the mandarinate are pleased to term barbarians. "Barbarians" encompass China on all sides and have been steadily torn from her vast portions of her outlying appendages; the Franks are threatening her on the South, the Saxons are closing in on the South-west, the Scythians are very much in evidence in the North, and the Goths and Vandals of Japan are nearing the capital. Does it not look as if history is now repeating itself in a remarkable manner? Do not present appearances indicate that China can only be reformed by being practically destroyed as was the civilization and the wisdom of Rome? Can we count on China as a real factor in the contest for empire in the Far East, or simply as the subject matter of the contest and the site of active operations?

Japan is young, vigorous, warlike, greedy, with a definite policy of conquest and a powerful concrete government backed by a patriotic people. She wants territory wherein to expand. She aims at becoming a ship-owning, a manufacturing, a trading country. She looks forward—and justly so—to a great and glorious future. We have no quarrel with her, no desire to quarrel with her, no objection to her acquiring names and fame, power and territory, so long as she is satisfied with fair competition and treats us and our manufactures as we are willing to treat hers. Russia is a vast power with a traditional policy of great definiteness, devoted to territorial acquisition, equally devoted to the principles of protection as opposed to free trade, and we say it with all due regard for the present *entente cordiale*, she is our commercial opponent and enemy wherever she has influence. English trade dies out where the Russian influence predominates. English goods never enter where the Russian flag flies. In 1860 Russia took a huge slice of China under guise of the most disinterested friendship, and Russian publicists to-day urge the acquisition of Korea; and an advance to the Great Wall of China, as a duty incumbent on the beneficent Government of the Czar. So far as she has made any formal or official declaration, Russia has insisted that Japan shall not have Korea and he is that Manchuria shall not fall a prey to her either!

Of the two powers, Russia and Japan, which would we prefer to see in full possession and control of Korea? Can there be a second opinion on the question? Surely not Russia! What is to be the fate of Korea? The fate of Korea must foreshadow the future of the Orient generally. It is impossible that it can be returned to the care or suzerainty of China. To do so would simply mean to postpone the settlement of the Korean problem and leave it to be

fought out again at no very distant period. Is Korea to be a protected state, and a neutral zone, under the guarantee of the Treaty Powers? If so, who is to be the *mandatary* of the Powers to effect the consequent needful reforms in that ill-governed land? Whoever gets that *mandatary*, and with it virtual possession, will remain master of the situation for ever. Is it to be Russia? Would that alternative suit either Japan or England? No. Is it to be Japan? If so, we have little interest, perhaps absolutely none, in opposing her. For many years to come, Japan, at the worst, can only oppose or threaten us in eastern seas. Russian advances and successes, jeopardise our interests here, in India, in Persia, and in the Mediterranean, in fact throughout the whole world. England should favour the predominance of Japan in Korea either as a temporary or permanent expedient. Japan, among the Western Powers, can only look to English support to reap the fruits of her successes and efforts in this war. Russia and Japan have distinctly opposing interests of the most vital character in the results of the present war, and they are the closest neighbours. Where would Japan be, with Russia in force, in Korea and all along the northern frontier of China? With a greedy and deadly enemy at her gates, who knows no mercy and who can bite her heart, the destiny of Japan would not be far to seek. Great Britain and Japan have common interests and cause in the Far East, and with a view to securing the peace of the Orient and their own future welfare should, we make bold to assert, be staunch friends and inseparable allies for all time. By such an alliance only can we hope to see a much-needed adjustment of the balance of legitimate power in Eastern Asia.

A STARTLING MOVE.

CANTON RIVER NIGHT TRAFFIC STOPPED.

The news received here to-day from Canton that night traffic on the Pearl River must be suspended from this date until further notice owing to the Chinese authorities having seen fit to lay down a number of additional mines and torpedoes, owing to their fear of an attack on the city of Canton by the Japanese, is to our way of thinking the most startling, although probably necessary, move made by the Chinese since the outbreak of war.

In September last the British Consul stationed at Canton protested vigorously against any interference with the trade of Canton and he succeeded in inducing the Chinese to act in a reasonable manner, and we are much surprised therefore now to learn that without any warning the important trade carried on between this colony and the "City of Rams" will be seriously interfered with, and we await with interest the receipt of full particulars of this sudden change of front, which is, however, on all fours with the action taken by the Chinese during the Franco-Chinese war. It is reasonable to suppose that Mr. Byron Brennan has protested against the action of the Viceroy on this as on the previous occasion of Celestial "scare," but as it is probable that a good many of our readers have forgotten the gist of the correspondence that passed between the Consul and the Colonial Secretary, we reproduce two of Mr. Brennan's letters, which speak for themselves and will be read with interest at the present time:—

H. M. CONSULATE, Canton, 29th September, 1894.

Sir, I have the honour to inform you that I have to-day received a note from the Viceroy in which he states that in consequence of the state of hostilities now existing between China and Japan, Chinese men-of-war will be stationed at the Bogue to search vessels passing by, and I am requested to give notice to shipmasters that they must stop on approaching these vessels of war "which will fly a flag by day and show a lantern at night."

I have replied to the Viceroy that I must have more precise information about these signals before I can comply with his request.

The Viceroy further states that if any persons are found on board whom there is reason to suspect, they will be removed and sent to Canton for examination.

I have warned the Viceroy of the very serious consequences which such a proceeding will entail.

I have, &c., (Sd.) BYRON BRENNAN, Consul.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.

H. M. CONSULATE, Canton, 1st October, 1894.

Sir, Referring to my letter of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the Viceroy has sent me a second dispatch giving more precise information respecting the guard-boats which is to be stationed at the Bogue.

The Viceroy gives me notice that the gun vessel *Anlan* will be stationed at the Bogue, and that she will show a square red flag at the fore by day, and three red lights by night. Allward bound vessels on approaching the *Anlan* are required to stop in order that they may be boarded if it is considered necessary.

The place where the *Anlan* will lie is given in Chinese as (Sha Koh Hau Mun).

I have, &c., (Sd.) BYRON BRENNAN, Consul.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAMS.

THE CHITRAL EXPEDITION.

LONDON, April 8th.

The First Brigade of the Chitral expedition has repulsed an attack of 1,200 Swazis, killing thirty of their number; the remainder fled to the hills.

The Garrison at Chitral is safe and well supplied.

THE OSCAR WILDE SCANDAL.

The evidence against Oscar Wilde at Bow Street was of a highly damning nature, and the case stands remanded till Thursday; bail has been refused.

JABEZ BALFOUR.

Jabez Balfour has sailed from Argentina for England.

LI HUNG-CHANG'S CONDITION.

Li Hung-Chang's wound has healed.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Portuguese gunboat *Diu*, after thorough overhaul in Kowloon Dock, left here for Macao yesterday afternoon.

We understand that a slight hitch has occurred between the Government and the head coolies, who refuse to fly a security for their future good behaviour, etc.

MR. R. S. GUNDRY, whose name in the *Forfeiture* we noticed on Saturday, has launched a great work entitled, "China, Present and Past." It is published at half a guinea by Messrs. Chapman and Hall.

A LONG "wanted" head coolie of the *Edgemoor* house returned from Tientsin yesterday, and was arrested in a house in Queen's Road West last night. He appeared at the Magistracy to-day, before Mr. Hastings, who banished him for five years.

LAST Friday night as the *Fatsan* was proceeding up to Canton, near Cansul-moon Pass, a Chinaman jumped overboard. Boats were lowered at once, but the man could not be found. However, the *Tai-on*, which turned up twenty minutes afterwards, saw the man struggling in the water and picked him up after much difficulty.

A SIGN of the times! An interesting illustration of the thoroughness with which Japan is entering upon the study of what we must soon cease to call "western science," occurs in *Nature* of March 7th. It is an advertisement of the Kellogg's Natural History Store opened at Tokio to supply museums and private purchasers with zoological, paleontological and mineralogical specimens. We do not believe there is anything like this in Asia. Certainly no Asiatic institution of the kind has hitherto invaded the stronghold of Western science.

At the Geological Society of London, on Feb. 6th, a paper by Mr. S. B. J. Skerichy, of Hongkong, and Mr. T. W. Kinsmill, of Shanghai, on "The Loess and other Superficial Deposits of Shantung" was read, and will appear in the forthcoming issue of the *Journal* of the Society. The authors state that much of North China has been submerged within recent times, and bring evidence to show that the mammoth and woolly rhinoceros survived in China till within the historical period. They give reasons for believing that N.E. Asia did not undergo a glacial period when Western Europe and Eastern America were clothed in ice.

At the Linnean Society of London on Feb. 7th Mr. W. B. Hemslay, of Kew Gardens, exhibited a number of dried specimens of plants from Eastern Asia. Conspicuous amongst these was a new genus of *Scitamineae* from the mountains of North Siam; a remarkable broad-leaved *Lysimachia* from the same region; new species of *Hypericum*, *Veronica*, *Melissa*, and *Fuchsia* from Formosa; and a new genus of *Cyrtandra* from a collection made in Yunnan by Mr. W. Hancock of Hongkong, came a new *Tosima* allied to *Y. nudiflorum*, with primrose yellow flowers an inch and a half in diameter; an elegant species of *Petrocosmea*; and a showy *Brandsia* with long racemes of crimson flowers, which were much admired.

BROADWOOD PIANOS at W. Robinson & Co.

NEXT Friday and Monday (15th) are advertised as Bank holidays.

The Italian cruiser *Cristoforo Colombo* arrived here this afternoon from Bangkok.

The First Lord of the Admiralty has announced an important programme of new works at Portland, Gibraltar, Dover, Hongkong and Portsmouth, the cost of which it is proposed to

